

Early Childhood Conference, Washington DC, February, 2005

Several sessions dealt with changes in IDEA under the latest re-authorization. Most of these were covered thoroughly by Sharon Walsh in a previous SICC meeting and the ITCA power point and handout is on the DESE web for your reference.

Several Key Points:

- The law now uses terms: “measurable results/outcomes” instead of “outcomes” on the IFSP.
- CAPTA: The Part C application must include a description of the State policies and procedures that require the referral for Part C early intervention services of a child who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect or is identified as affected by illegal substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.
- Public Awareness; Dissemination to all primary referral sources, especially hospitals and physicians of premature infants or infants w/other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications on the availability of early intervention services under Part C and section 619 – and procedures for assisting these sources in disseminating this info to parents of infants and toddlers.
- Rigorous definition of Developmental Delay.
- Option to serve children under Part C until KG.
- SICC membership: Office of the coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth, State Foster Care Representative, Mental Health Agency.
- Transition meetings can be held up to 9 months before the child turns age 3 instead of up to 6 months. The decision is up to the state, and our regulations in Missouri currently indicate the transition meeting will be held 6 months before the child turns 3.
- Some changes in Procedural Safeguards that are actually listed under Part B – Mediation and due process

States now need to have (in addition to APR) a performance plan (one year after the enactment of IDEA – early December) reviewed at least once every 6 years.

Session on Medicaid funding

Approximately 11 states indicate that Medicaid funds special instruction
Each state varies a great deal on how they use Medicaid – some use waivers

Florida just had its Infant and Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) accepted as a billable provider under Medicaid. (Non healing arts specialist) They anticipate being a pilot state for Medicaid reform.

In NE, Medicaid is targeting Targeted Case Management for review.

A double session provided by OSEP addressed Using Data to Guide Continuous Improvement. The facilitators used simulation exercises to help participants consider effective strategies for deciding on data that will tell the story and ways to display and label the data so that it is most meaningful.

Summary provided by Margaret Strecker